

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SCCT-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

/088 W

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R 261235Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5391

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0965

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PDIP, LE, YE

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF YEMEN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 5315

1. ON EVENING OF APRIL 24 YARG ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS CLOSING ITS EMBASSY IN BEIRUT "BECAUSE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE EMBASSY STAFF". DECISION WAS TAKEN BY FULL CABINET AND REPUBLICAN COUNCIL AND CAME QUICKLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN BEIRUT EARLIER SAME DAY ON YEMENI ROVING AMBASSADOR MOHAMMAD AHMED SHAMI. THIS ATTEMPT WAS THE FOURTH IN A SERIES OF BEIRUT TERRORIST ATTACKS ON PROMINENT YEMENIS, WHICH HAS RESULTED THUS FAR IN MORE DEATHS INCLUDING THAT OF MOHAMMAD AHMED Noman, MEMBER OF ONE OF YEMEN'S MOST PROMINENT FAMILIES KILLED LAST SUMMER BY UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANTS.

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2. THE YARG IS CONVINCED THESE ATTACKS ARE INSPIRED BY THE ADENI

GOVERNMENT WHICH IS USING EITHER ITS OWN GOON SQUADS OR HAS CONTRACTED

MEMBERS OF EXTREMIST PALESTINIAN GROUPS. WHILE THERE IS APPRECIATION HERE FOR THE DIFFICULTIES FACING THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT (PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME) IN TRACKING DOWN THE ASSASSINS, THE YARG HAS RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT IT CAN NO LONGER JEOPARDIZE THE LIVES OF ITS DIPLOMATS IN BEIRUT. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF STAFF AHMED GHASHMI, THE YARG NOW INTENDS TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN AMMAN WHILE COVERING BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS. GHASHMI EMPHASIZED THAT THE YARG MOVE WAS SOLELY MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS.

3. COMMENT: REACTION TO THIS LAST ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HAS BEEN STRONG IN SANAA. ALL EMBASSY CONTACTS SEEN OVER THE WEEKEND ARE CONVINCED THAT ADEN IS BEHIND THIS NEW OUTRAGE. THERE IS ALSO SOME CONCERN THAT PDY MAY NOW BE ESCALATING ITS TERRORIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST YARG.
SCOTES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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